of some neighbours. Police has registered a criminal case in this connection.

(c):

	1997	1998
Gujarat	0	5
Madhya Pradesh	0	2

(d) Although 'Public Order' and 'Police' are State subjects a per the Constitution of India and it is the primary responsibility of the State Governments to prevent crimes, the Central Government has been providing assistance to the State Governments for improving their policing infrastructure and also shares intelligence with the States. It has also constituted a Special Force, called the Rapid Action Force, for assisting the State Governments in controlling the communal situation. The Central Government has been issuing guidelines from time to time to the State Governments for promoting communal harmony among different communities. The guidelines are reviewed periodically.

The Government is clear that acts of violence against the minority communities whenever and in whatever form they occur, must be dealt with sternly and the culprits punished.

Chief Ministers' Conference on Human Rights

1183. SHRI SITARAM KESRI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have convened a conference of the State Chief Minister of Human Rights;

(b) if so, the purpose, the dates of the conference and its agenda; and

(c) the response of Chief Ministers to his invitation?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, the Government had convened a meeting of Ministers responsible for Human Rights in States and Union Territories to discuss certain issues such as setting up of State Human Rights Commissions, Human Rights Courts and to promote human rights literacy amongst various sections of the society. The meeting was postponed due to administrative reasons.

Atrocities on Minorities

1184. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the continued atrocities on minority communities by religious fundamentalists in the country specially in Gujarat which include rape, demolition of religious sites, attacks on gatherings before mute police forces; and

(b) if so, what preventive actions were taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) It is not correct that there have been continued atrocities on minority communities in Gujarat. However, a few isolated incidents of alleged atrocities/attack on Christians and their Institutions in Gujarat and other parts of the country have come to the notice of the Government. Promot action has been taken in these cases by the authorities.

(b) Although 'Public Order' and 'police' are State Subjects as per the Constitution of India and it is the primary responsibility of the State Governments to prevent crimes, the Central Government has been providing assistance to the State Governments for improving their policing infrastructure and also shares intelligence with the States. It has also constituted a Special Force, called the Rapid action Force, for assisting the State Governments in controlling the communal situation. The Central Government has been issuing guidelines from time to time to the State Governments for promoting communal harmony among different communities. The guidelines are reviewed periodically.

The Government is clear that acts of violence against the minority communities, whenever and in whatever form they occur, must be dealt with sternly and exemplary punishment awarded to the perpetrators.

Increase in Oil Import Bill

1185. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the oil import bill of Government are increasing day-by-day;

(b) if so, the details of oil import bill during the last three financial years;

(c) the estimated oil import bill during the current financial year;

(d) whether Government have taken any steps to check the increase in oil import bill; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) (a) and (b) The value of crude oil and petroleum products imported during 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 is as under:—

Value : Rs./Crores

	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98*
Crude Oil	11517.00	18538.19	15897.15
POL products	12577.85	15633.49	12431.92
TOTAL :	24094.85	34171.68	28329.07

*Provisional.

(c) The Oil Economy Budget (OEB) for 1998-99 has estimated foreign exchange requirement of US $ 8418.10 million for import of crude oil and petroleum products.

(d) and (e) In order to contain oil import bill, steps are being taken to increase crude oil production in the country through application of improved technologies, better understanding of reservior behaviour, development of new fields, additional development of existing fields and by inviting foreign and private capital in the upstream sector. The refining capacity is also being increased in the country by expansion of existing refineries in the public sector and setting up of refineries in joint sector and private sector to minimise the product imports.

Reduction in Diesel Price

1186. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the diesel price is likely to be cut in tune with the fall in the international price of crude oil; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when the reduction would be effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) (a) and (b) Government announced a comprehensive package to end the oil pool deficit on September 1, 1997. The Government also decided that hence forth the price of HSD would be on import parity basis.